

Message Text

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13
ACTION NEA-10

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R 260945Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7953
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
USUN NY 2045

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12549

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN, BG
SUBJECT: GOI CRITICIZES BANGLADESH MOVE TO RAISE FARAKKA ISSUE
AT THE UN

REF: NEW DELHI 11632

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: DELHI PRESS AUGUST 26 FRONT-PAGED
STATEMENT OF GOI SPOKESMAN COMMENTING ON ATTEMPT BY BDG TO
HAVE FARAKKA ISSUE INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA OF THE
UNGA SESSION BEGINNING SEPT. 21. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THAT
STATEMENT:

A. "INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF
BANGLADESH HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE THE BILATERAL ISSUE OF
THE SHARING OF THE GANGA WATERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

B. "THE QUESTION OF SHARING OF THE GANGA WATERS DURING
THE PERIOD OF SHORTAGE HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE
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PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIAN AND BANGLADESH OF MAY 1974.

C. "TECHNICAL TALKS WERE HELD ON THE SUBJECT IN APRIL AND MAY THIS YEAR. THESE TALKS WERE FOLLOWED BY HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENTAL TALKS DURING THE VISIT OF THE GOODWILL DELEGATION LED BY MR. G. PARTHASARATHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE, TO DACCA IN JUNE.

D. "ON JUNE 30, 1976, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INVITED THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH FOR FURTHER TALKS TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI. THIS INVITATION WAS RENEWED ON AUGUST 13. RESPONSE IS STILL AWAITED.

E. "THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIAN REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT SUCH PROBLEMS ARE AMENABLE TO CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION WHICH WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NEEDS AND RIGHTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION.

F. "IT MAY BE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA THEMSELVES ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE NEED FOR SOLVING SUCH PROBLEMS BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR PEOPLES IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE, STABILITY AND PROGRESS OF THE REGION.

G. "IT IS UNFORTUNATE AND REGRETTABLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH SHOULD INTERRUPT THE PROCESS OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND SEEK TO INTERNATIONALISE THE ISSUE." END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION THAT THE GOI RENEWED ITS INVITATION FOR TALKS ON FARAKKA ON AUGUST 13 FOLLOWING BDG'S "NEGATIVE" REPLY AUGUST 7 (REFTEL). END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. SAXBE

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